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ABSTRACT

Noting that Connecticut has an extensive network of resources that can support families and the early childhood community, this guide is designed to assist early care and education providers in their efforts to enhance the services to families in their programs and link families with the Connecticut network of resources. The booklet contains information on associations, programs, initiatives, and agencies across Connecticut which offer, on a regional or statewide basis, some type of support, service, or information to families and professionals involved with preschool age children; it does not list child care, preschool, or preschool special education programs. The booklet contains three alphabetized sections. Section 1 is organized by topic or type of service offered. Section 2, the bulk of the guide, lists all programs, agencies, and initiatives, describes their involvement in the early childhood community, and includes telephone numbers. Section 3 provides an index. (KB)

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# CONNECTICUT'S EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY RESOURCES

## Programs/Initiatives which Support Families, Early Care and Education Providers and Young Children

PS 030234

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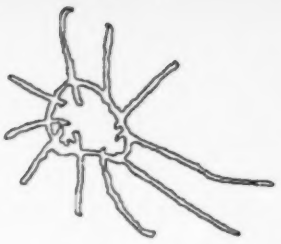

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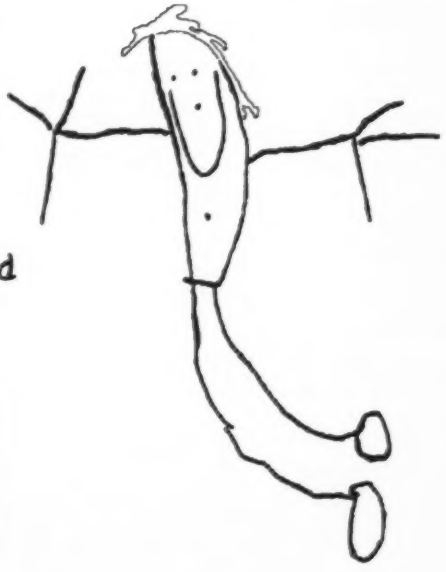
**Bureau of Early Childhood Education & Social Services**



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

*DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION*

*November 2000*

***Connecticut has an extensive network of resources that can support families and the early childhood community. Providers of early care and education have the opportunity and responsibility to connect families with the available resources in their community. This guide is designed to assist early care and education providers in their efforts to enhance the services for families in their programs and link families with the Connecticut network of resources.***

***This guide should be reviewed and discussed by all staff in early care and education programs so that they are knowledgeable about the services available throughout Connecticut. It should be added to the program's collection of resource information that is readily available to both staff and families so that they may access it as needed.***

***Every effort has been made to provide complete and accurate information in this document. However, given the large number of initiatives that involve the early childhood community and the fact that the details of a particular program can change over time, there may be some errors and/or omissions. If you are aware of any changes or additions that should be made to future printings of this booklet please notify the Bureau of Early Childhood Education and Social Services, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457 or call: 860-807-2056.***

***Paul Flinter***
***Chief***
***Bureau of Early Childhood Education and Social Services***



*25 Industrial Park Road • Middletown, Connecticut 06457*
*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

With funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Early Childhood Education and Social Services, this document was developed at SERC and edited by Tricia M. Godfrey

## Connecticut's Early Childhood Community Resources: Programs/Initiatives which Support Families, Early Care and Education Providers and Young Children

⌘ This booklet contains information on associations, programs, initiatives and agencies across Connecticut which offer, on a regional or statewide basis, some type of support, service, or information to families and professionals involved with preschool age children.

⌘ Please note that this is **not** a listing of programs, which provide child-care, preschool programs or preschool special education services. All of those direct service programs are extremely important resources for families and professionals, but are too numerous to list here. Detailed information about those programs can be obtained through **Child Care Infoline**: 1-800-505-1000, local Boards of Education and local School Readiness Councils.

⌘ The mission of many of the organizations listed goes beyond early childhood; but for the purposes of this booklet information is provided **only** as it relates to the early childhood community. Information on a wide range of health and human services is available through **Infoline 2-1-1** or through Infoline's **Directory of Community Services**, which can be found in public libraries or is available for purchase. The Connecticut Association for Human Services distributes **Programs that Help People in Connecticut, which** is updated annually and can be obtained by calling 860-665-2761.

⌘ This booklet contains three alphabetized sections. The first is organized by topics under which you will find a list of the initiatives or programs which are involved with this particular service. There is then an alphabetical listing of all the programs, agencies and initiatives with a short description of their involvement in the early childhood community and a telephone number. And finally there is an Index, which lists all the entries alphabetically with corresponding page numbers.

⌘ Inclusion in this directory does not indicate approval or endorsement by the Bureau of Early Childhood Education and Social Services. The listings are provided only as a source of general information.

## Service Directory

The listing below is organized by topic; for more information please find the program in the alphabetical listing. There is also a page index at the end of this booklet.

**Advocacy and Information**
- Center for Children's Advocacy
- Child Advocate
- Commission on Children
- Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired
- CT Association for Foster and Adoptive Parents
- CT Association for Human Services
- CT Association of Non-Profits
- CT Kids Link
- CT Parent Advocacy Center
- CT State Dept. of Children and Families
- Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis
- Family Center at CT Children's Medical Center
- Family Resource Centers
- Hispanic Health Council
- Infoline
- Office of Protection and Advocacy for Handicapped and Disabled Persons
- Parents Available to Help

**Best Practices**
- Accreditation Facilitation Project
- Children First Initiative
- Commission on Children
- Community Technical Colleges
- CT Association for Human Services.
- CT Association for the Education of Young Children
- CT Division for Early Childhood
- CT Early Childhood Education Council
- CT Family Day Care Associations Network
- CT School Age Child Care Alliance
- CT State Dept. of Education
- CT State Dept. of Social Services
- Cooperative Extension System
- Family Supports Connecticut/STATES Initiative
- Governor's Head Start Collaboration Office
- Hartford Area Child Care Collaborative
- Healthy Child Care Connecticut
- RESCs
- Schools of the 21 Century
- SERC

**Child Care Resource and Referral**
- Infoline
- Family Resource Centers

**Family/Parenting Education and Support**
- Corner/Zigler Initiative
- Commission on Children
- Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired
- CT Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents
- CT Birth to Three System
- CT Parent Advocacy Center
- CT Parent Plus
- CT State Dept. of Children and Families
- Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis
- Family Center at CT Children's Medical Center
- Family Development Training and Credentialing Program of CT
- Family Re-Entry
- Family Resource Centers
- Family Service Agencies
- First Steps/Nuturing Grant Programs
- Head Start
- Healthy Families CT
- Healthy Start
- Infoline
- Parent Support Centers
- Parents As Teachers
- Parents Available to Help
- People Empowering People
- RESCs
- School Readiness Initiative
- Schools of the 21st. Century
- SERC
- Southern CT Library Council/Family Place Libraries
- Yale Family Connections

**Funding/Financial Issues**

- CT Health and Educational Facilities Authority
- Child Care Assistance Program
- CT State Department of Labor
- CT State Department of Revenue Services
- CT State Department of Social Services
- Graustein Memorial Fund
- Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- Head Start
- HUSKY Plan
- Medicaid
- School Readiness Initiative
- State Funded Child Care
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

**Home Visiting**

- CT Birth to Three System
- Early Head Start
- Family Resource Centers
- Head Start
- Healthy Families CT
- Healthy Start
- Parents as Teachers

**Health**

- American Red Cross
- Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Children's Fund of Connecticut
- Children's Health Council
- Children's Health Project
- Commission on Children
- CT Area Health Education Center Program
- CT State Department of Public Health
- Healthy Child Care Connecticut
- Healthy Homes
- Healthy Start
- Hispanic Health Council
- HUSKY Plan

**Legal Assistance**

- Center for Children's Advocacy
- Children's Law Center
- Children's Rights Council
- CT Legal Services

**Licensing**

- CT State Dept. of Public Health

**Literacy**

- Commission on Children
- Even Start
- CT State Department of Education
- CT State Library
- CT State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
- Cooperating Library Service Units
- Southern CT Library Council/Family Place Libraries
- Wheeler Clinic

**Mental Health**

- Child Guidance Clinics
- CT State Dept. of Children and Families
- CT State Dept of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Consultation Center
- Family Service Agencies
- Healthy Child Care Connecticut
- Mental Health Association of CT
- Mental Health Centers

**Nutrition**

- CT State Dept. of Education
- CT State Department of Public Health
- Cooperative Extension System

**Professional Development/Professional Organizations**

- Accreditation Facilitation Project
- Child Care Associations of Connecticut
- Child Health and Development Institute of CT
- Commission on Children
- Community Technical Colleges
- CT Area Health Education Center Program
- CT Association for the Education of Young Children
- CT Association for Human Services
- CT Association of Non-Profits
- CT Charts-A-Course
- CT Council of Child Care Coordinators in Community Technical Colleges
- CT Division for Early Childhood
- CT Early Childhood Education Council
- CT Family Day Care Associations Network
- CT Parent Advocacy Center

CT Public Television
CT School Age Child Care Alliance
CT State Department of Education
CT State Department of Higher Education
Consultation Center
Cooperative Extension System
Early Childhood Training and Resource Academy
Family Child Day Care Program
Family Development Training and Credentialing Program of Connecticut
Family Resource Centers
Hartford Area Child Care Collaborative
RESCs
SERC
Wheeler Clinic

**Program Accreditation/Program Development**

Accreditation Facilitation Project
Child Health and Development Institute
School Readiness
CT School Age Child Care Alliance
CT State Library
Consultation Center
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
RESCs
Schools of the 21st. Century

**Policy Development**

Children First Initiative
Commission on Children
CT Association for Human Services
CT Child Day Care Council
CT's Head Start Collaboration Office
CT Kids Link
CT Voices for Children
CT Children's Health Council
Family Supports Connecticut/STATES Initiative
Fatherhood Council
Graustein Memorial Fund
Hartford Area Child Care Collaborative
Healthy Child Care Connecticut
United Way

**Social Services**

Child Abuse Hot Line
Child Care Assistance Program
Child Guidance Clinics
Children's Trust Fund
CT State Department of Children and Families
CT State Department of Labor
CT State Department of Social Services
Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis
Family Re-Entry
Family Service Agencies
Infoline
Save the Children Federation
Wheeler Clinic
Young Parents Program

**Special Education Services**

CT Birth to Three System
Board of Education and Services for the Blind
Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired
CT State Department of Education
CT State Department of Mental Retardation

*Please note: The name of many organizations and associations officially begins with "Connecticut" so remember to look in that section if you are having trouble locating something.*

**Accreditation Facilitation Project (AFP)**
The AFP was created through a partnership between the Hartford Association for the Education of Young Children and the Hartford Area Child Care Collaborative. The School Readiness and Child Care Act replicated this project throughout Connecticut, resulting in five regional programs. This statewide initiative now operates under the umbrella of the Connecticut Charts-a-Course, the state's coordinated training and professional development system. Acceptance into the AFP project offers programs seeking NAEYC accreditation intensive support, which includes:

- Reimbursement for the NAEYC fees
- On site technical assistance
- Enhancement grants for improvements necessary to meet accreditation standards
- Customized training for staff and directors
- Funds to cover release time for staff
- Facilitated support groups for directors

All providers may participate in

- Free workshops
- Technical assistance sessions on the self-study process
- Information dissemination on NSACCA and NAFCC accreditation

The AFP offers two support systems to help programs prepare for accreditation:
-Early Accreditation Supports (EAS) in the north central region, offers the opportunity for directors to network, for staff to gain inside feedback and professional development to increase programs use of available resources.
-Pre-Accreditation Support, is delivered by the RESCs to programs nominated by their School Readiness Council.
The AFP supports family child care accreditation by the NAFCC in a pilot effort in the eastern region of CT. This assistance is similar to the AFP supports for NAEYC accreditation.
*860-257-1104*

**American Red Cross**
The Connecticut Chapter of the American Red Cross has numerous local chapters which offer health and safety services as part of the organization's mission of emergency prevention and preparedness. Offerings include first aid, CPR, HIV/Aids education, babysitting training, and training for child care providers.
*1-877-287-3327*

**Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB)**
Education consultants, specializing in the education of children who are blind or visually impaired, work with infants and young children in the home and community based locations. They offer a wide range of services including:

- Functional vision assessments
- Evaluations of a child's progress and development
- Development and implementation of a child's Individual Family Service Plan or Individual Education Plan
- Teach parents and care givers how to work with visually impaired children
- Provide specialized early intervention and school services for infants and pre-school children with limited vision and hearing

*1-800-842-4510*

**Center for Children's Advocacy**
This non-profit organization is located at the UCONN School of Law and services the legal needs of poor children. The Center's primary focus is to promote the rights and interests of poor children dependent upon the judicial, child welfare, health, and mental health, education and juvenile justice systems for their care. The Center employs a number of methods to achieve its purposes including class action and individual representation, training, administrative and legislative advocacy and consultation. Because of its recognition that interdisciplinary approaches contribute immensely to the understanding of children's issues, the center is committed to working in partnership with experts and policy analysts to develop appropriate solutions to meet the complex challenges of these interlocking systems.
*860-570-5327*

**Child Abuse Hotline**
*See CT Department of Children and Families*

### Child Advocate

The Office of the Child Advocate is an independent state agency established and empowered by law to protect the civil, legal and special rights of all children in Connecticut. By law, the state's Child Advocate, appointed by the Governor, has access to records of state agencies, schools, police, and the courts. Responsibilities include evaluating the delivery of services by and complaints about state agencies and state funded agencies and recommending changes in policies and procedures in the systems of child care and foster care.
1-800-994-0939

### Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

*See CT Department of Social Services*

### Child Care Associations of Connecticut

A network of local and regional childcare associations exists across the state which provide support, training, and resources for its members in an effort to support quality family child care.
*For a list of associations contact the CT Family Day Care Associations Network 860-643-0880*

### Child Guidance Clinics

Across the state, these clinics, funded in part by the Department of Children and Families, provide diagnostic and crisis counseling services and other psychiatric oriented treatment services to children (usually up to age 18) and their parents.
*For information on local clinics, call Infoline 2-1-1; or CT State Dept of Mental Health and Addiction Services 1-800-446-7348; or CT State Department of Children and Families Mental Health Services 860-550-6530*

### Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut

This organization, which was created by and received its initial funding from the Children's Fund of Connecticut, began operations in March of 1999. Promoting the development of comprehensive and integrated service and support systems for young children and their families in Connecticut will be the central focus of the work of CHDI. Because it is free of the daily operational and management demands of direct service programs, CHDI will be able to address long range issues and serve as a catalyst to help public and private agencies initiative systemic changes that will benefit children. During the first year the Institute will focus activities on:

- Strengthening the training on the emotional and social development of infants and toddlers for child care and health care professionals
- Increasing child care providers access to mental health consultation
- Strengthening a statewide support network for families of young children with mental health concerns
- Supporting a comprehensive strategic plan regarding mental health services for young children and their families
- Convening a Policy Academy on early childhood behavioral health

CHDI also includes the **Early Childhood Training and Resource Academy** which, while not directly operating training programs, is designed to serve as a catalyst for training delivered by others. The Academy oversees the *Training Program in Child Development*. Initially funded by the Department of Social Services and the Children's Fund, the Connecticut General Assembly has provided direct funding for this training program for fiscal years 2000 and 2001. Coordinated through the Wheeler Clinic, this CT Charts-A-Course (See separate listing for more information) approved training is offered by 23 providers in 47 locations.
*CHDI 860-679-1519*
*Early Childhood Training and Resource Academy 860-793-3847*

### Children First Initiative

This comprehensive community based initiative is the largest grant making program of the Graustein Memorial Fund. Eight urban communities have participated in the Initiative; its primary goal is to improve education and life outcomes for children birth to eight years old. Children First is about more than program implementation, it is about local capacity building. The cities are supported in their work by both technical assistance and evaluation. Now entering a two-year Legacy phase, the cities are working to solidify the gains they have made and incorporate a focus on young children into local decision-making processes and community life.
*203-498-4030*

**Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)**
This program is funded by the State Department of Public Health and administered by Connecticut Children's Medical Center and Yale-New Haven Hospital. It offers diagnostic and therapeutic services to Connecticut resident children under age 18 who have or are at elevated risk for biological or acquired chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions and who also require health and related non-educational and non-recreational services of a type or amount not usually required by children.
*860-509-8074*

**Children's Fund of Connecticut**
This grant-making foundation, established in 1992, concentrates on one major issue at a time, with its first focus on early childhood development. An innovative grant process is designed to promote the general health of children, primarily under-served, in communities throughout the State and for activities that promote health, prevent illness, and have a direct impact on the physical and mental health of children ages 0-21. Accomplishments include:

- The establishment of the Child Health and Development Institute of CT *(see separate listing more information)*
- Training Program in Child Development
- GREATKIDS CONNECTICUT: This information system about a broad range of children's health, education and development issues is being developed with the CT State Librarian, and will be housed within the Connecticut State Library system's Web site.

*860-297-0570*

**Children's Health Project**
*See CT Children's Health Council*

**Children's Law Center**
This nonprofit organization provides legal representation for children in northeastern Connecticut, using a lawyer/mental health team approach. The Center also provides legal information about situations involving children through the Children's Lawline (1-888-lawdoor)
*860-872-7220*

**Children's Rights Council of Connecticut**
This organization, affiliated with the National Children's Rights Council, is designed to advocate divorce and custody reform in order to minimize hostilities between spouses and children including alienation of children's affection that often accompanies the divorce process.
*203-281-1425*

**Children's Trust Fund**
The Children's Trust Fund is an independent state agency; its purpose is to encourage and support the development of child abuse prevention programs and activities, help strengthen the network of community resources to support families, and expand statewide educational and informational activities. The Children's Trust Fund Council oversees the program. Their programs teach personal safety to children and adolescents, enhance social services to families and work to prevent professionals and others in the community from abusing or neglecting children in their care.
*860-550-6315*

**Comer/Zigler Initiative (CoZi)**
CoZi offers year round child care and family support services in a school governed by a decision making process that includes representatives of all the adult stakeholders in the school community. The model is a combination of the School Development Program (SDP) developed by James P. Comer at the Yale Child Study Center and Dr. Edward Zigler's School of the 21 Century at the Yale Bush Center in Child Development & Social Policy.
*Yale Bush Center 203-432-9943*

**Commission On Children**
Created by the state legislature in 1985, it brings representatives from the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government together with the private sector to promote public policies on children's best interest. The Commission is mandated to:
Provide information and conduct research regarding CT's children and children's programs; Enlist the support of leaders of business, health, and education communities, state and local governments and the media to improve services and policies for children; Review coordination and assess programs and practices in all state

agencies as they affect children; Serve as a liaison between government and private groups concerned with children. Make recommendations for children annually to the Legislature and to the Governor.
Activities include:

- 1,2,3,4,5 Kids Count: a school readiness campaign that serves as a model for comprehensive education, outreach, community mobilization, parent involvement and model policy agenda to attain school readiness.
- Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI): this 20 week course seeks to enable parents to become advocates for children. Offered in partnership with other organizations in 11 locations across the state.
- Publication of numerous free materials and newsletters for parents and providers concerning school readiness, literacy, health and safety.

*860-240-0290*

### Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (CDHI)

The Commission serves deaf and hard of hearing persons with hearing losses ranging from slight to profound as well as the hearing community who live and work with persons with hearing disabilities. They provide interpreting services, job counseling and placement, personal and family counseling, information and referral services, as well as advocacy.
*1-800-708-6796*

### Community Technical Colleges

Connecticut has a system of 12 community technical colleges which are two-year public institutions of higher education; 11 of these schools offer courses of interest to the early childhood community. Their mission is to make educational excellence and the opportunity for lifelong learning affordable and accessible to all Connecticut citizens. Their offerings related to early childhood include, CDA credential programs, the Charts-A-Course approved Training Program in Child Development, one-year certificate programs and 2-year associate programs in early childhood education and related fields. An Agreement between the CT Community Technical Colleges and the CT State University System means that all graduates of an associates degree program within the system with a G.P.A of 2.0 or higher are guaranteed admission to the University of their choice within the CT State University System. Specifics vary depending on the major.

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|---|
| Asnuntuck Community-Technical College<br>Enfield, CT 860-253-3187 |
| Gateway Community-Technical College<br>New Haven, CT 203-789-7187 |
| Manchester Community-Technical College<br>Manchester, CT 860-647-6377 |
| Naugatuck Community-Technical College<br>Waterbury, CT 203-596-8664 |
| Norwalk Community-Technical College<br>Norwalk, CT 203-857-7108 |
| Tunxis Community-Technical College<br>Farmington, CT 860-679-9662 |
| Capital Community-Technical College<br>Hartford, CT 860-520-7874 |
| Housatonic Community-Technical College<br>Bridgeport, CT 203-332-5162 |
| Middlesex Community-Technical College<br>Middletown, CT 860-343-5856 |
| Northwestern Community-Technical College<br>Winsted, CT 860-738-6386 |
| Three Rivers Community-Technical College<br>Norwich, CT 860-823-2955 |

### CT Alliance for Arts Education

The purpose of the Alliance is to create a public information campaign on the role of the arts in early childhood learning and development and to develop training for early child care providers.

### CT Area Health Education Center Program

The federal Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program was established as a way to encourage medical schools to increase the number of students and residents trained in under served communities. The Connecticut AHEC program is based at the University of CT School of Medicine and complemented through four regional AHEC offices. This program is designed to address problems related to primary and preventive care within under served communities. They engage in health promotion and increased disease prevention activities in a way that responds to community needs. AHEC also helps communities identify and address current and projected needs. Activities include collaboration on the Training Program in Child Development.
*860-679-7969*

### CT Association for Human Services

This not-for-profit organization promotes public policy solutions and brings resources to bear to strengthen needy children, families, and communities through education outreach, advocacy, research, and evaluation. Since 1910 the Connecticut Association for Human Services has been in the forefront of informing the public about pressing human service needs and working with policy makers to develop and implement initiatives to address them. CAHS works in collaboration with local community partners in Hartford, New Haven, and throughout the state to ensure the provision of human services that are of the highest quality, responsive to people's needs and cost-effective. Its membership includes concerned citizens, religious leaders, corporations, labor leaders, human service professionals and organizations, educators, and policy makers. The Child Care and Early Education Director at CAHS works statewide to increase access to affordable, quality child care, with special emphasis on the needs of low- and moderate-income families. She also staffs and co-chairs the Connecticut Child Care Collaborative, a group of twenty organizations concerned about child care policy in the state. Emails and fax alerts are used to communicate with more than 200 individuals and organizations about breaking news concerning child care in Connecticut.
*860-951-2212*

### CT Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC)

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is the largest organization of early childhood professionals and others dedicated to improving the quality of early childhood education programs for children birth through age eight. Affiliate groups, which depend on voluntary leadership, work towards NAEYC's goals at the local, state and regional level. Connecticut is divided into 9 regional groups which offer its members training, resources and support as well as an annual statewide conference.
*CAEYC 860-257-0676*

### CT Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents

This non-profit organization is committed to strengthening Foster and Adoptive Families though support, training, and advocacy with the aim of nurturing child safety, well being and stability in partnership with child welfare professionals and the entire community.
*1-800-861-8838*

### CT Association of Non-Profits

This private non-profit trade association provides services to its members which include advocacy, informative meetings and publications, professional training, insurance and group purchasing programs, an unemployment trust, a retirement program and much more. Membership consists of human service, arts, health, education, recreational and cultural organizations, as well as philanthropic foundations. Through their *Center for Personnel Development* they hold workshops across the state or arrangements can be made for on-site trainings.
*860-525-5080*

### CT Birth to Three System

This state and federally funded entitlement program is for families whose children are under the age of three and have significant developmental disabilities or delays. A program of the State Department of Mental Retardation, the mission of the system is to strengthen the capacity of families to meet the developmental and health-related needs of their infants and toddlers who have delays or disabilities. The system will ensure that all families have equal access to a coordinated program of comprehensive services and supports which include, but are not limited to service coordination, special instruction, O.T., P.T., nutrition services, family training, counseling and home visits.
*Birth to Three Infoline 1-800-505-7000*

### CT Charts-A-Course (CCAC)

This initiative is a comprehensive and coordinated system of career development and recognition for early care and education professionals. The Board of Trustees for State and Community-Technical Colleges has been designated by the State Department of Social Services to coordinate CCAC. The project is located at Norwalk Community-Technical College for administrative and fiduciary purposes. This system has 5 components:

- Professional Recognition: CCAC maintains a voluntary, confidential and free computerized personal career development database for early childhood and school age care providers.
- Approved Training: The Training Approval Board (TAB) establishes and monitors

standards for CCAC approved training activities, standards for trainers and provides oversight of the 180 hours of CCAC approved training in the Core Areas of Knowledge.

- Early Childhood Education Articulation Plan: Transfers associate level credits to baccalaureate institutions which have agreed to participate and which offer teacher preparation programs with an endorsement in early childhood.
- Scholarships: CCAC provides financial assistance to working, income eligible CT residents. Funds are available for the costs involved in earning a CDA and up to 6 college credits per semester for individuals working towards an associate's degree or higher in early childhood education.
- **Accreditation Facilitation Project** (AFP) *See separate listing for more information.*
- Career Counseling: Members can access information and resources and speak one-on-one with a career development counselor.

*1-800-832-7784*

### CT Child Day Care Council

This legislatively mandated body serves as a forum for Connecticut citizens interested in child care and as an advisory committee to DSS on child care issues and the development of the Child Care and Development Fund Plan. The State Department of Social Services provides administrative support to the Council.

### CT Children's Health Council

The Council's mission is to ensure that all eligible children are enrolled in the HUSKY (Connecticut's Healthcare for UninSured Kids and Youth; CT's Medicaid program providing free or low cost insurance for uninsured children under 19 years of age.) and that all children enrolled in HUSKY receive regular well child and all other necessary health care services. The **Children's Health Project**, a project of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, is the operational arm of the Council and is a statewide resource providing training, information, advocacy and monitoring of data related to children's participation in the HUSKY program. The Project is also the lead agency for *Covering Connecticut's Kids*. This National Health Access Initiative for low-income uninsured children, funded through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is supported by the State Department of Social Services and has a broad based statewide coalition of organizations concerned with children's access to health care. Statewide project interventions have several objections including no newborn will leave the hospital uninsured and all children enrolled in licensed and subsidized childcare setting will be insured.

*Children's Health Council 860-548-1661*
*Children's Health Project 860-550-6744*

### CT Council of Child Care Coordinators in Community Technical Colleges

This Council is an action oriented coalition of early childhood education coordinators and campus child care directors whose main purpose is to provide a network within the community college system. Monthly meetings provide a forum for:

- The exchange ideas and information as it relates to academic programs, campus child care and early childhood education
- Reviewing state and national legislation concerning young children and their families and to provide testimony those issues
- Advocating on behalf of young children and their families

*See listing for **Community Technical Colleges** for phone numbers for each college.*

### CT Division for Early Childhood (DEC)

This division of the Council for Exceptional Children is for individuals who work with or on behalf of children with special needs birth through age 8 and their families. This non-profit organization provides members quarterly issues of the *Journal of Early Intervention* and *Young Exceptional Children* . The Connecticut affiliate is a source of resources, information and networking, holding monthly meetings and an annual conference.

*860-679-7352*

### CT Early Childhood Education Council (CECEC)

The Council is an action oriented coalition of representatives from various statewide organizations concerned with early childhood education and of members at large. The council serves as a forum for discussion of public policy issues, advocates on behalf of young children and their families, and disseminates information regarding issues that relate to young children and their families. Activities include:

- Annual conference bringing together over 4,000 participants at 13 sites

- Child advocacy and collaboration
- Grants and scholarships
- Local council development

*860-267-6080*

### CT Family Day Care Associations Network (CFDCAN)

This statewide non-profit organization is comprised of family childcare associations. CFDCAN offers resources, education and technical assistance to encourage the effective management of its membership. It operates on the belief that successful programs offered by local associations improve the quality of child care in Connecticut. They coordinate an annual 2 day conference and publish a newsletter, *Network Newsline*.
*860-643-0880*

### CT Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA)

This state agency coordinates the Child Care Facilities Loan Fund in partnership with the State Department of Social Services and 7 private banks, providing financing for non-profit child care providers. The financing is low cost because it is tax exempt and long term and the state repays almost 80% of the loan.
CHEFA administers 3 loan programs for child care providers:

1. Tax-exempt bonding program for non-profit child care facilities for construction, renovation or expansion costs
2. Loan guarantee program for capital and non-capital loans
3. Small revolving loan program for non-capital loans

*1-800-520-4700*

### CT Kids Link

*See **CT Voices for Children***

### CT Legal Services

Connecticut's legal assistance programs provide free civil legal services to income-eligible people in the form of direct representation in crisis situations, advise, referrals, and legal self-help materials. Statewide Legal Services screens cases for all legal assistance programs in the state, providing brief service and advice, and referrals to local legal services offices for all noncriminal related matters.
*860-344-0447*

### CT Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC)

This statewide non-profit organization offers information and support to families of children with any disability or chronic illness, age birth through 21. In addition to personal assistance to families, CPAC conducts workshops for schools, teachers in training and service providers throughout the state so that they may better understand and serve the parents with whom they work. Staff and board members also represent issues that are of concern to parents and families on statewide committees and organizations. They have a collection of books and videos available through the mail for loan.
*1-800-455-CPAC*

### CT Parents Plus

*See **United Way** for information*

### CT Pediatric Aids Program

An initiative of the CT Primary Care Association, this program provides family support/case management to HIV infected/exposed and affected children and their families in the cities of Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven and Stamford. They also provide these services to children and their families who receive their pediatric HIV medical care at the CT Children's Medical Center but live outside of Hartford.
*860-232-3319*

### CT Public Television

- **First Steps:** This initiative of CT Public Television (CPTV) is designed to train day care providers, caregivers and parents in the educational and social development of their children. Using CPTV/s children 's series as its foundation, the initiative offers a program of interactive viewing, innovative activities, storybook reading and outreach.
- **Ready To Learn**: This CPTV service is designed to educate preschoolers in a safe entertaining environment of television programs and activities. As part of that program CPTV broadcasts over 7 hours of unduplicated children's programs every weekday with fun, education messages broadcast in between the program.
  *860-278-5310*

### CT School Age Child Care Alliance

The mission of this affiliate of the National School Age Child Care Alliance (NSACCA) is to provide leadership, education and advocacy for excellence in school age child care. They

provide information and professional development on a variety of school age child care issues as well as support regarding NSACCA accreditation.
*860-349-7005*

### CT State Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Children's Protective and Family Services

These services are provided through regional and sub-regional offices which children are reported and found to be neglected, abused, exploited or abandoned by their parents or caretakers. The department provides a wide range of services to families including protective case work services and funding to support community based services such as permanent foster care, parent aides, intensive family preservation, emergency child care and adoption services for children who cannot be returned to their homes.

- **Adoption Services**: DCF provides information to prospective adopting parents and parents considering releasing a child for adoption. Children free for adoption are listed with DCF's office of Foster and Adoption Services.
- **Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline 1-800-842-2288** This is the number professionals and members of the public are to call when they need to report children they suspect are being abused, neglected, exploited or abandoned.
- **Children's Trust Fund**: *See separate listing for more information.*
- **Early Childhood Programs:** DCF funds programs for preschool children and families who are at risk of abuse and neglect and/or developmental delay.
- **Foster Care**: DCF recruits, trains, licenses and provides support to foster care families. DCF provides medical coverage and a monthly reimbursement to cover the expenses of caring for a foster child.
- **Health Advocates**: located in the regional offices provide on-site assistance & training on managed care. Foster parents are one of their target audiences.
- **Placement Preservation Services**; available to foster and adoptive parents and include emergency psychiatric services, individual and family counseling, respite care and therapeutic childcare
- **Parent Support Centers:** Funded by DCF, these centers are located throughout the state. Centers typically offer parenting classes, support groups, book and toy lending libraries, drop-in programs, newsletters and special family events for parents and their children. These services, many free of charge, are available to all parents residing in towns served by the Centers. Centers also provide training, technical assistance and consultation on issues related to parenting for service providers and business professionals

*Children's Protective and Family Services 860-550-6302*
*Foster and Adoption Services 1-800-842-6347*
*Mental Health Services 860-550-6530*
*Medical Health Services 860-550-6537*
*Substance Abuse Services 860-550-6527*

### CT State Department of Education (SDE)

Division of Educational Programs and Services

Bureau of Career and Adult Education

Provides a range of services to the early childhood and kindergarten community that includes general information on early childhood, curriculum, and best practices. Initiatives include:

- **Even Start:** Even Start is a federally funded program to give low income families access to the training and support they need to create a literate home environment and enhance the academic achievements of their children. It is designed to integrate early childhood education, adult education, parenting education and parent and child together time into a comprehensive program that builds on existing community resources. There are 6 Even Start Programs across the state.
- **Family Literacy Project:** With funding from the federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the State Department of Education awards grant, through a competitive process, to 11 family literacy programs across the state. These programs must integrate the components as listed in the Even Start program.

Bureau of Early Childhood Education and Social Services:

Provides a range of services to the early childhood and kindergarten community that includes general information on early childhood development, curriculum and best practices. Initiatives include:

- **Preschool Special Education** is focused on eligible 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children with disabilities. Special education and related services are mandated by federal and state law. In Connecticut special education services are provided by local or regional schools districts, the Board of Education and Service for the Blind (BESB), Unified School District #2 (DCF) and the American School for the Deaf (ASD). Preschool special education programs and services are determined through an individual educational program (IEP) team at each school district and are based on an individual child's needs. Towns receive funding to support these services through the state education cost sharing grant and federal funds through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Bureau also provides training, technical assistance and resources to the districts.
- **Family Resource Centers:** Based on the "schools of the 21st Century" concept, these 60 centers across Connecticut promote comprehensive, integrated, community-based systems of family support and child development services located in public school buildings. FRCs are expected to prevent an array of childhood and adolescent problems by strengthening effective family management practices and establishing a continuum of child care and support services that children and parents need. They collaborate with many resources in their communities to offer parent education and training; family support; preschool and school age child care; positive youth development services; and family day-care provider training. All families who reside in the designated service area, regardless of income, are eligible for services offered by the center; some services may require a family contribution based on a sliding fee scale.
- **School Readiness Initiative:** This legislated initiative established a grant program designed to provide access to high quality school readiness programs; to significantly increase the number of spaces in these programs for young children; and to increase the number of spaces for young children to receive full-day, full-year programs to meet family needs and enable parents to become employed. Communities participating in this initiative must establish a School Readiness Council. Through the Councils, early care and education programs are selected and receive funding to provide quality programs. Priority school districts participate in a non-competitive grant while severe needs communities can apply through a competitive grant process. Quality Enhancement grants are also available to the priority communities. SDE is the lead agency, collaborating with the State Department of Social Services (DSS) *See CT State Department of Social Services for more information.*
- **Head Start** is a federal program with direct oversight and funding by the federal government. In addition, SDE provides 5.1 million dollars in funding directly to Head Start grantees. *(See separate **Head Start** listing for more information.)*
- **Young Parents Program**: These programs are designed to keep parenting students in school by providing school-based child-care services. This program is also used in some school districts to teach pregnancy prevention. Funds are provided through a competitive grant process, and each participating school district is required to provide a 100% match to the state grant.

*Bureau of Early Childhood 860-566-2051*

Bureau of Nutrition

Several programs are available to early care and education programs including:

- ***Child and Adult Care Food Program***: child care centers and family child care homes can receive federal funds for meals and snacks. The level of funding is based on the household income of the enrolled families
- ***Nutrition Education and Training Program***: This program provides students, parents, teachers and food service personnel with a

comprehensive approach to nutritional education and training.

- ***Special Milk Program:*** Non-profit child care centers can receive reimbursement for milk served to children, provided the center does not also participate in other federal meal service programs.

Division of School Improvement

Bureau of School-Family Community Partnerships

- **Connecticut State Family Literacy Initiative** is designed to strengthen and expand existing family literacy programs and acknowledges the importance of a collaborative approach to serving both adults and children in Connecticut. Through a Statewide Family Literacy Consortium of experts, committed professionals , local program operators and families themselves, a coordinated effort will exist to address the gaps in the current service delivery model.
- **Family Development Training and Credentialing Program of Connecticut** *See separate listing*
- **School-Family-Community-Partnership Project** helps educators, parents and community members develop partnerships by providing training and resources designed to promote policies and programs at the local level to increase public awareness of the positive impact of school-family-community partnerships on student learning.

*860-566-5898*

Division of Teaching and Learning

Bureau of Certification and Professional Development

This Bureau awards certification required of teachers and administrators in the public schools and is involved in the professional development of public school staff.

*860-566-5201*

### CT State Department of Higher Education

- **Education and Employment Information Center** has information on education offerings at all levels: high school, college (CT and nationwide); adult; continuing education; and job training programs. They provide information on student financial aid and help individuals with college and career decisions

*1-800-842-0229*

### CT State Department of Labor

As the lead agency for providing employment and training services, this department is the state's welfare to work agency and has developed a partnership with the Department of Social Services. The Child Care Assistance Program is available to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) clients who are participating in approved training programs and/or employment opportunities.

*860-263-6000*

### CT State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

This is the single state agency for providing comprehensive mental health and substance abuse services throughout Connecticut. While the department's preventive services serve all Connecticut citizens, its primary treatment clients are adults (over 18 years of age) with psychiatric or substance use disorders or both, who lack the financial means to obtain such services. DHAHS provides a wide variety of programs including outpatient, residential, case management, social rehabilitation and crisis intervention

*1-800-446-7348*

### CT State Department of Mental Retardation (DMR)

Supports or services are available from the Department of Mental Retardation to individuals who are residents of the State of Connecticut and have mental retardation as defined in Connecticut General Statutes or who have a medical diagnosis of Prader-Willi Syndrome. Potential services for young children include case management and Family Support Services.

- **Birth to Three System:** *Please see separate listing*
- **Early Connections**: This direct service program offers support and services to families with children under the age of three who are eligible through the Birth to Three System

*Birth to Three Infoline 1-800-505-7000*
*DMR: 860-418-6000*

### CT State Department of Public Health (DPH)

Bureau of Community Health

Family Health Division

Maternal Child Health Unit:

- **Children with Special Health Care Needs:** *See Separate listing*

- **Healthy Start**: *See separate listing*
- **Healthy Child Care Connecticut** : *See separate listing*
- **Young Parents Program:** DPH funds these programs at community based sites in Connecticut. Programming includes guidance and education to young parents who have had a child and want to prevent or delay the birth of a second child and parenting education.

Health Education and Intervention Division

- **WIC, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children** is a federally funded supplemental food program. Women and children who are in-come eligible and at risk nutritionally receive monthly vouchers for the purchase of infant formula, milk, eggs, cheese, juice, peanut butter and cereal. DPH contracts with local agencies and health departments to provide service

Environmental Epidemiology and Occupational Health Division

- **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs** include lead level screenings, testing for lead paint in residences, public information about lead poisoning and lead abatement outreach programs in areas with high incidences of lead poisoning, and hazardous material removal loan/grant programs for homeowners and landlords. Regional Lead Treatment Centers at St. Francis Hospital and Yale-New have Hospital provide medical care, case management and safe shelter for children age 0-6 and their families when found eligible due to high lead levels and a toxic living environment.

Bureau of Regulatory Services

This Bureau has responsibility for licensing, certifications and investigations of facilities including day care.

Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation

This office is involved in health surveillance, priority setting, policy analysis and coordination to address public health concerns. Activities include the **CT Children's Health Council**; *see separate listing for more information.*

*1-860-509-8000*
*WIC 860-509-8084*
*Lead Poisoning Prevention 860-509-7299*

**CT State Department of Revenue Services (DRS)**

The *Child Care Tax Credit Program* is administered by this department and is part of the Human Capital Investment Credit Account. This tax credit is available to employers who have child care related expenses such as planning, site preparation, construction, renovation or acquisition of facilities for the purpose of establishing day care facilities, and child care subsidies paid to employees.
*860-297-4932*

**CT State Department of Social Services (DSS)**

Offering a wide range of services, those listed below specifically target young children and/or their families:

Child Care

- **Child Care Assistance Program:** DSS has contracted with Maximus, Inc, a private organization to administer this certificate/voucher program. The childcare certificate authorizes monthly payments for specific childcare services. The certificate can be used at any appropriate (as defined in state regulation) childcare setting as long as the parent remains eligible for assistance. Also available for foster families as the foster families' income is not considered for eligibility. The DSS Office of Administrative Hearings and Appeals handles complaints concerning due process for the Child Care Assistance Program. A formal fair hearing is held only after the grievance/mediation process through MAXIMUS has been accessed.
- **CT Charts A Course:** DSS designated the Board of Trustees fort State and Community Technical Colleges to coordinate Charts-A-Course. *See separate for more information.*
- **CT Child Day Care Council:** See *separate listing.*
- **Family Child Day Care Training Program:** This statewide effort, funded by DSS and coordinated by the Capital Region Education Council *(see **RESCs** for more information)* offers training, support and information to newly licensed and experienced family child care providers, as well as those

considering the profession and those exempt from licensure.

- **School Readiness Initiative:** This initiative is a joint venture between the State Departments of Education and Social Services. DSS funds the Quality Enhancement Grants which are available to priority districts to create or maintain local projects that enhance the quality of preschool early care and education programs within their community. The municipality must use the local school readiness council to review and recommend projects to be funded. While operating as a companion grant to the School Readiness Grant program, these activities may expand beyond the school readiness audience and may include family day care providers, informal and school-age child care providers. *See CT State Department of Education for more information.*
- **State Funded Child Care:**

DSS activities related to childcare also include:

-contracts with state supported childcare centers to provide comprehensive services similar to those provided in Head Start.

-Conduct child abuse and criminal record checks for certain providers who are not subject to licensing by the Department of Public Health.

-funding source to and a collaborative partner with the CT Health and Development Institute, Infoline, and the early childhood newsletter **All Children Considered**

-funding a parent involvement consultant to provide assistance to various child care facilities

Child Support Enforcement

This program locates absent parents, obtains child support orders and collects child support payments on behalf of families. Child Support Services are available to all children deprived of parental support, regardless of income.

Emergency Assistance

These programs provide assistance to families or individuals when faced with an emergency or disaster and when assistance from other means is either unavailable or inadequate.

Employment and Training

These programs help individuals and families to obtain employment and become self-sufficient. Programs include:

- **Food Stamps Employment and Training**
- **Opportunities Industrialization Centers**

Financial Assistance

The financial assistance programs provide income support to individuals and families to meet their basic needs while encouraging their maximum degree of independence. Programs include:

- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):** This program provides temporary assistance while recipients seeks and obtains employment that will make their families self-sufficient.
- **State Administered General Assistance**

Housing

Services include rental assistance program that provides for rent payment and the **Section 8 Certificate and Voucher Program.** Also provides grants to shelters for homeless victims of domestic violence.

HUSKY Plan: Health Care for UninSured Kids and Youth

The HUSKY plan is designed to help all children who don't have health insurance. It provides services under the traditional Medicaid Program (known as HUSKY Part A). It also provides health services for children in higher income families (called HUSKY Part B). HUSKY Plus is a coverage option for children who have intensive physical or behavioral needs. HUSKY is funded by the state and federal governments and administered by DSS.

Medical Assistance

DSS provides medical assistance to low income persons and people who could otherwise support themselves if not for the fact that they have excessive health care costs. Programs include:

- **Medicaid**
- **CT Insurance Assistance Program for AIDS Patients**

- **CT Aids Drugs Assistance Program**
- **Healthy Start**: This program is jointly administered by the State Departments of Health and Social Services. *See a separate listing for more information.*

Nutritional Assistance

These programs provide food and cash equivalents to the various populations DSS serves. The goal is to promote adequate nutrition among the target populations. Programs include:

- **Food Stamps:** This program is available for all households and individuals of limited means who need to supplement their income to purchase adequate food.

Preventive Services to Families

Through these services families and individuals receive prevention, intervention and treatment services. Counseling, education, case management and home management are provided to help reduce conditions of impoverishment or dependency. Programs include:

- **Community Based Services to Families**
- **Shelter Services for Victims of Household Abuse**
- **Families In Training**: This program provides parent education and community support services to expectant parents and parents of children under three.
- **Human Resource Development** – DSS makes grants to non-profit agencies and municipalities for the operation of social service programs designed to have a major impact on the elimination of poverty or its causes.

Services to Adults and People with Disabilities

Programs include the Family Support Grant which is designed to maintain children with developmental disabilities at home. Subsidies are provided to defray the extraordinary expenses associated with raising a child with a disability.

*Child Care Team 1-800-811-6141*
*Child Care Assistance Program/MAXIMUS 1-800-226-8400*
*Child Care Infoline 1-800-505-1000*
*Child Support Information Hotline 1-800-228-KIDS*
*DSS Customer Information 1-800-385-4052*
*HUSKY: 1-877-CT-HUSKY*

### CT State Library

- GREATKIDS, CT is an effort by the State Librarian in conjunction with the Children's Fund, to create easier access to information about children's health, development, and learning, and to provide links to the services and resources available for parenting and caring for young children. Housed within the CT State Library System's website, look for this site in February 2001.
- Middletown and Willimantic Library Service Centers maintain collections of adult non-fiction and large print books, children's books, audio tapes, CDs, CD-ROMs and public performance video tapes for loan to CT public libraries, school libraries, academic libraries, institutional libraries and state agency librarians or directors. Story hour kits, (available through Willimantic only) and Book Props are also available

*1-800-253-7944*

### CT State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

This library lends books and magazines on disc, cassette and in Braille and the necessary playback equipment, free, to any Connecticut adult or child who is prevented by a visual or physical disability from reading ordinary-size print. All materials are available by postage-free mail.

*1-800-842-4516*

### Connecticut's Head Start Collaboration Office/ Governor's Collaboration for Children

The purpose of the Head Start State Collaboration initiative, as outlined in federal legislation, is to integrate the lessons learned from Head Start, the nation's 35-year-old early childhood laboratory, and the services of local Head Start programs with state efforts in early care and education. State collaboration offices have eight priority areas that guide them in their work with states. These include health, child care, education, literacy, welfare reform, national service, homelessness, and children with special needs. Special efforts are made to establish collaborative Head Start – child care initiatives at the state and local level.

Located in the Department of Social Services, the activities of the HSSCO now focus more directly on areas of active agency collaboration and over the past year these activities have included working with the National Quilt Program to organize and facilitate ongoing group meetings toward a particular goal. Specific meetings include those with DSS, SDE, ACF Region I and the Connecticut Head Start Association to further integrate School Readiness, child care and Head Start services for three- and four-year-olds; with DCF and Head Start to develop a pilot collaborative initiative in northwest Connecticut; and with DMR to develop an interagency agreement between the Birth to Three System and Early Head Start programs in the state. The HSSCO continues to work closely with Healthy Child Care Connecticut around issues of health and mental health in early care settings.
*860-424-5066*

### Consultation Center

This center provides a wide range of prevention and consultation programs to enhance individual development, coping ability and to promote organizational effectiveness. It is a collaborative effort of the Community Consultation Board, Inc., the CT Mental Health Center and the Department of Psychiatry, Yale University School of Medicine. In addition to numerous other programs, they have an Early Childhood Training and Consultation Program which provides support and education regarding the psychosocial development of young children and early childhood programming and design.
*203-789-7645*

### Cooperating Library Service Units (CLSUs)

Connecticut has four CLSUs whose purpose is to improve library service through coordinated planning, sharing resources and developing programs too costly for any one library. All libraries are invited to become members including those in hospitals, churches, museums and state agencies.
*Capitol Regional Library Council 860-298-5319*
*Eastern Connecticut Library Council 860-465-5001*
*Southern Connecticut Library Council 203-288-5757 See separate listing for more information.*
*Western Connecticut Library Council*
*203-577-4010*

### Cooperative Extension System

This initiative is designed to help CT's diverse population manage their family resources and develop strong family units though increased employment, improved decision making and promoting self esteem. Linked to a nationwide educational network, this program of the University of CT offers workshops, projects and materials that address the needs of families and communities. Areas of focus for Cooperative Extension professionals and trained volunteers are parenting, 4-H and youth development, nutrition and food safety, childcare, money management, environmental health and community participation. Initiatives include:

- **People Empowering People (PEP):** a leadership empowerment program for adults with limited resources
- **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program and Family Nutrition Program** provides food and nutrition education to families and youth and includes the Children with Special Dietary Needs project, SALUD! Nutritional Campaign, Infant/Toddler Project
- **National Network for Childcare** is focused on improving outcomes for limited resource families and at-risk children through collaborative efforts. They offer information, training and support. They edit and distribute 3 newsletters targeting 3 different types of child care providers:
  *-All Children Considered* , a collaborative effort with the Department of Social Services, is a quarterly newsletter edited and distributed to 8,000 people in Connecticut
  *-KIDS*, a collaborative effort with the CT School Age Child Care Alliance is newsletter for school-age care providers is distributed to CT providers
  *-School Age Connections* and *Family Child Care Connections* are edited here in CT and distributed nationally through the Cooperative Extension System in 35 states

*People Empowering People Program 1-860-345-4511*
*Food and Health Team: 860-486-3633*
*Family and Community Team 860-486-4126*
*To reach the nearest Cooperative Extension Center: 860-486-1987*

### Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis (CCCC)

This Council prevents child abuse, neglect and victimization across the life span through home visiting, parent education, family strengthening

activities and advocacy to families; individual and group counseling and safety planning to abused women, and individual and group counseling, support and advocacy to child and adult victims of sexual abuse and assault. CCCC covers the 20 towns of the Greater New Haven Area
*203-624-2600*

**Early Childhood Training and Resource Academy**
***See Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut***

**Early Head Start**
***See Head Start***

**Family Center at CT Children's Medical Center**
The Center offers a wide variety of family support initiatives and training programs for parents of children with disabilities or special health care needs. Through a variety of funding sources the Family Center offers numerous programs, including: Family Voices CT, Partners in Policymaking, CT Parent to Parent Network; Health Care Financing Advocacy; Latino Outreach Project; Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. They manage CT Families on Line the Connecticut families list serve, which allows everyone on the list to send messages to the entire list. Participants can communicate with other families or just follow the dialogue about topics of interest to families in CT.
*860-545-9023*

**Family Development Training and Credentialing Program of Connecticut**
This interagency initiative provides front-line workers with skills in supporting individuals and families in attaining self-reliance and inter-dependence with their communities. The program involves 110 hours of training, mentoring and portfolio development. Managed by CREC, the program is supported by the Children's Trust Fund, The State Department of Education and UCONN.
*860-509-3615*

**Family Re-Entry, Inc.**
This agency helps those at risk of abuse, neglect, and crime become responsible family members and community citizens through community re-entry groups, fathers' and mothers' clubs and family therapy. The family focused counseling and support groups are provided through the criminal justice system. Head Start programs and Welfare to Work training programs in Stamford, Norwalk, Bridgeport, New Haven, and Hartford.
*203-838-0496*

**Family Resource Centers**
***See CT State Department of Education***

**Family Service Agencies**
These private agencies across the state provide crisis and mental health counseling for troubled parents, couples, youth and elderly individuals. They also help families locate resources in their community.
*For information on local agencies, call Infoline 2-1-1; or CT State Dept of Mental Health and Addiction Services 1-800-446-7348; or CT State Department of Children and Families Mental Health Services 860-550-6530*

**Family Supports Connecticut/ STATES Initiative**
The Family Supports America/STATES Initiative promotes a family support agenda in eight states, including Connecticut, and leverages family support activities in those states. Connecticut's main goal in Family Support Connecticut has been to bring together and coordinate all of its family support efforts and create a comprehensive statewide agenda for family support.

**Fatherhood Council**
An Act Establishing a Fatherhood Initiative calls for the establishment of a Fatherhood Council, convened by the Commissioner of Social Services, whose purpose is to develop a plan to promote the positive involvement of fathers in the lives of their children.

**First Steps**
***See CT Public Television.***

**First Steps/Nurturing Grant Programs**
***(See Healthy Families Connecticut)***

**Graustein Memorial Fund**
The William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund works collaboratively to improve education for CT's children by supporting school change, informing the public debate through policy

research and advocacy, and strengthening the involvement of parents and the community in education. Grants awarded by the Memorial Fund in support of community engagement include:

- Children First Initiative -*see separate listing*
- Father -to- Father / New Haven Family Alliance, Inc – to broaden the understanding of a father's presence, care and involvement among urban, low income fathers
- Parent Information, Advocacy and Empowerment Initiative & Special Education Reform Effort/ Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition – To provide technical assistance to six pilot schools to strengthen parent engagement and to develop and implement a strategy to improve Bridgeport's special education program
- Northeast School Readiness Compact/ Northeastern CT Councils of Governments – To expand early childhood activity, community capacity-building, model policy development and public discourse on children in the northeast region.
- Parent Center Training/ Cheshire Board of Education – To develop a model for training early childhood, school and community personnel to work with parents and use the child's environment creatively.

*203-498-4030*

### Hartford Area Child Care Collaborative

HACCC brings together and supports providers, employers, agencies, community-based organizations, policy makers and funders in order to maximize resources toward effective delivery of high quality child care services. They provide information, technical assistance for program enhancement, training and skills development, cooperative planning, regional, state and national advocacy of quality child care issues and sustained support on specific multi-year projects.
*860-241-0411*

### Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

This community foundation serving 30 towns in the Greater Hartford area is committed to improving the quality of life for residents throughout the region. In 1990 it established the Brighter Future's Initiative to strengthen Hartford's network of early childhood services and to increase the number of Hartford children who enter school ready to learn. Accomplishments include the Accreditation Facilitation Project, Family Centers, and the Hartford Area Child Care Collaborative. The Foundation is also the managing agency for the Hartford School Readiness Council, which incorporates many of the Brighter Future's Initiative's goals and builds on the successful Hartford Area Child Care Collaborative.
*860-598-1888*

### Head Start

These comprehensive child development programs serve children between the ages of three and five and their families. These child-focused programs have the overall goal of increasing the social competence of young children in low-income families. Social competence takes into account the interrelatedness of social, emotional, cognitive and physical development. Connecticut has a total of 16 Head Start grantees that provide funding to 8 delegate agencies resulting in a total of 24 Head Start programs. Federal funds ($40 million in 1999-2000) are provided by formula directly to the local programs with no state involvement. State funds, which flow through the State Department of Education (SDE), are provided through competition, formula and a per child distribution. State funding is also provided though the school readiness grant. The *Head Start Performance Standards* are mandatory federal regulations which must be implemented to operate a Head Start program. Federal on-site program reviews are conducted every three years and SDE provides both fiscal and program monitoring. **Early Head Start** is a federally funded program that provides low-income pregnant women and families with children from birth to age 3 with family-centered services. As of July 1999 Connecticut had 7 Early Head Start Programs. The **Head Start Association** is an independent non-profit organization representing the children, families, and staff of Head Start. They provide information, resources, networking and advocacy on a wide range of issues of interest to Head Start families and staff. On the national level they offer a program of quality recognition.
***See CT Head Start Collaboration Office***
*Contact individual Head Start programs*
*CT Head Start Association 203-852-9625*

### Healthy Child Care Connecticut (HCCCT)

The national Healthy Child Care America Campaign is based on the principle that families, child care providers and health care providers *in partnership* can promote the healthy development of young children in child care and

increase access to preventive health services and safe physical environments for children. Federal grants to the states provide for activities that facilitate system building and service integration. Healthy Child Care Connecticut is a project of the CT Head Start State Collaboration Office. HCCCT's activities are designed and implemented through a Core Committee and various subcommittees with more than 50 representatives of organizations involved in child care and health care for children and families. Projects include:

- Developing a data base of child care health consultants
- Developing a memorandum of understanding between Head Start and managed health care plans
- Developing a medication administration curriculum for training children care providers
- Providing technical assistance to the Departments of Education, Social Services, School Readiness Councils and their contracted providers
- Linking early care and education providers with resources that will help them support the social and emotional development and mental health of young children and their families

*203-287-8953*

### Healthy Families Connecticut (HFC)

This program is based on a national initiative to establish a universal, voluntary visitor system for all new parents to help their children get off to a healthy start. HF goals are to promotes positive parenting, encourage child health, development and school readiness and to prevent child abuse and neglect. Through a grant process coordinated by the Children's Trust Fund, HFC program sites are selected. HFC programs are located in a variety of settings including community based agencies and hospitals. The actual program is implemented on the local level by private and public partnerships, with Prevent Child Abuse of CT of the Wheeler Clinic in Plainville providing technical assistance and support. Each program offers home visiting services to pregnant or first time parents who are over-burdened. The home visits can last up to five years. Visits focus on parenting skills, child development, child health and other aspects of family functioning. Home visiting services are combined with the ***First Steps and Nurturing Programs***. First Steps is a program of trained volunteers who offer educational information and emotional support through telephone contact to any new parent for their child's first 6 months of life. If additional support is needed and desired by the parents, a referral is then made to Healthy Families for intensive follow-up with home visits. The Nurturing Program provides group support that teaches parents how to nurture their children and themselves. HFC programs are also in partnership with 22 Healthy Start programs, promoting best practices.

*Healthy Families CT: 860-793-3575*
*First Steps and Nurturing Programs: 860-550-6315*

### Healthy Homes

This initiative of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is working toward creating smoke-free environments for all children.
*1-800-638-2772*

### Healthy Start

This grant program, funded through the CT Department of Social Services with oversight provided by the Department of Health, can be found in 23 sites throughout the state. Offering home visits to pregnant women and young children, the purpose of the program is to connect pregnant women and young children to the resources they need to stay healthy. This program differs from Healthy Families CT in that they can elect to serve other than first time parents and the duration and intensity of visitation varies from site to site. Some locations have both a Healthy Start and Healthy Families program.
*860-509-8081*

### Hispanic Health Council

This is a community-based research, direct service, training and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health, mental health, nutrition and economic well being of Latinos and low income population in and around Hartford.
*860-527-0856*

### HUSKY Plan

***See CT Children's Health Council and CT State Department of Social Services***

### Infoline

This service of the State of Connecticut and Connecticut's United Ways is a phone based information referral and crisis intervention

service. Using a three-digit toll free phone number (2-1-1) all Connecticut residents can make use of this service. Professional caseworkers assist callers with a wide range of issues. Infoline specialized services with their own phone numbers include:

- Child Care Infoline, 1-800-505-1000, provides free telephone service to parents as they search for child care and related services. The child care database, updated continuously, includes profiles on all licensed centers, group, and family day care homes in the state. Technical assistance and information on training opportunities are also available for early care providers.
- Children's Health Infoline, 1-800-434-7869, helps families and health providers access information and services within Medicaid Managed Care, especially for children. It is an integral part of the Children's Health Project under the direction of the Children's Health Council
- Birth to Three Infoline, 1-800-505-7000, focuses on early intervention for infants and toddlers with developmental delays. It serves as the intake point for the state's Birth to Three System, referring children to programs for evaluation and services. Using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire with interested families, it also monitors ongoing development of children evaluated but found not eligible for Birth to Three Services.
- Husky Health Infoline, 1-877-CT-HUSKY, offers information on HUSKY – Health Care for Uninsured Kids and Youth. Support in completing the application process is offered along with referrals for additional assistance when needed.

Infoline also provides consumer education, community seminars, and is involved in the Child Care Provider Recruitment Project to expand the number of licensed child care slots. They maintain an extensive database of social services in Connecticut which can be accessed by phone through their caseworkers. In addition, they publish a Directory of Community Services, located in public libraries, available for purchase or through internet subscription

### Mental Health Association of Connecticut

This statewide, private, non-profit agency dedicated to the promotion of mental health, the prevention of mental illness and improved care and treatment of persons with mental illnesses. Programs and services include:

-referrals to mental health clinics and private practitioners
-support groups
-children's initiatives which provide advocacy, education and support to children with mental health needs and for their families
-family advocacy
*1-800-842-1501, ext.15*

### Mental Health Centers

Across the state, these centers provide a variety of counseling and support services to children and families.
*For information on local agencies, call Infoline 2-1-1 or CT State Dept of Mental Health and Addiction Services 1-800-446-7348; or CT State Department of Children and Families Mental Health Services 860-550-6530*

### Office of Protection and Advocacy for Handicapped and Disabled Persons

This state agency offers assistance to parents who have problems finding services for their children with special needs. The Office advises parents of their options in finding educational services and acts as an advocate for parents who are concerned about potential discrimination.
*860-297-4300*

### Parent Support Centers

***See CT State Department of Children and Families.***

### Parents As Teachers (CONNPAT)

*See United Way for information*

### Parents Available to Help (PATH)

This is an information and support network of families who have experienced a difficult pregnancy, premature birth, the loss of a young child, or have a child with special needs and/or medical problems. Through one-to-one telephone contact, resource publications, library and research services and speaker programs, PATH reaches out to help strengthen families in Connecticut who are coping with similar situations. Their goals are to reduce isolation, to empower families to become better advocates for their children and to reaffirm their value as parents and caregivers.
*1-800-469-4687*

### Regional Education Service Centers (RESCs)

Established by law, RESCs are designed for the purpose of cooperative action to furnish programs and services. The operation and management of the RESCs is the responsibility of a board which is made up of representatives from each of the participating Boards of Education. Each Board of Education and non-public school in the areas served by a RESC may determine particular programs and services in which it wishes to participate. The 6 RESCs offer a wide variety of services designed to meet the needs of early childhood professionals, preschoolers and their families. While some grant programs result in all 6 RESCs offering the same specific service, each RESC designs its programs and initiatives according to regional needs. In some areas, an individual RESC has responsibility for a statewide initiative. Services include:

- technical assistance, consultation and training and resource development to School Readiness Councils, sub-grantees, public school districts, preschool special education programs and early care and education programs on wide range of issues including program design, curriculum, management, strategic planning, accreditation support, staff development, early literacy
- direct service provider of child care, Head Start, preschool special education services,
- design and distribution of newsletters
- lending libraries
- parenting and job readiness programs, adult education
- fiscal management

Contact each RESC below for information regarding their early childhood activities:

*Northwest Region:*
**Education Connection**
860-567-0863

*Southwest Region*
**Cooperative Educational Services (CES)**
203-365-8836

*North Central Region:*
**Capitol Region Education Council (CREC)**
860-524-4057

*South Central Region:*
**ACES**
203-484-5155

*Northeast Region:*
**EASTCONN**
860-455-0707

*Southeast Region:*
**LEARN**
*860-434-4800*

### Save the Children Federation

Based in Wilton, Connecticut, Save the Children of the United States is a member of the International Save the Children Alliance, a group of 26 organizations world wide working for children's rights in over 100 countries. They direct their resources to children and families in needs. Save the Children working directly in 15 states across the U.S, including Connecticut and in 35 developing nations.
*1-800-243-5075*

### School Readiness Initiative

***See CT State Department of Education***

### SERC

Located in Middletown, SERC is a centralized resource for professionals, families and community members regarding early intervention, special education and pupil services and transition to adult life for individuals with special needs. SERC provides a number of coordinated and interrelated services and resources including publications dissemination, Library and Instructional materials, Child Find, training and technical assistance and a wide range of educational initiatives including preschool, autism, school-family-partnerships.
*Child Find 1-800-842-8678*
*860-632-1485*

### Schools of the 21 Century (21C)

This program, conceived by Yale University Professor Edward Zigler, transforms elementary schools into a year round, multi-service centers which provide crucial support to families and promote school readiness in children. Approximately 500 schools nationwide have implemented this program. Basic components of the 21C program are:

- Preschool age child care
- School age child care
- Information and referral services for families
- Guidance and support for new parents
- Networks and training for community child care providers
- Nutrition and health care services

Yale University provides leadership and technical assistance to 21C Schools through staff training, organizational audits, technical

assistance and consultation on issues related to preschool, childcare and family support and education.
*203-432-9944*

### Southern Connecticut Library Council/ Family Place Libraries

This consortium of libraries is designed to provide leadership, identify members needs, develop cooperative projects, provide services and facilitate sharing. They are in the process of establishing seven Family Place Libraries in Ansonia, Branford, East Haven, Hamden, New Haven and West Haven. Using the existing infrastructure of the public library, the Family Place transforms the local library into a community hub for early childhood information, parent education, emergent literacy, socialization and family support. Family Place Libraries include: outreach to at-risk children and families; developmentally appropriate programming for young children and their parents; a specially designed early childhood learning space; collections of books, toys and audio-visuals; access to electronic resources.
***See Cooperating Library Service Units***
*203-288-5757*

### United Way

This agency provides a variety of services throughout Connecticut in collaboration with many public and private partners. They present a strong, united voice to government on human services issues, they manage the State Employees Campaign for Charitable Giving, and unite the 24 local United Ways in Connecticut, hold events and educational seminars for them.
Initiatives include:

- Infoline (see more information above)
- CT Parents Plus, funded by a Goals 2000 federal grant, is a collaborative effort with the State Department of Education and Parents As Teachers. This statewide clearinghouse of parenting and child development information promotes collaboration among parents, providers, educators and local and state agencies concerned with children's development and education. CTPP's website maintains a calendar of events, classes and programs related to parenting, child development and education. They also offer:
  -Automated Parenting Info Tape Library (available early 2000) 1-800-635-4592 features over 300 tapes in English and Spanish, many of which deal with issues of concern to parents.
  **-Parents as Teachers (PAT)** is an affiliate of the National Center of Parents As Teachers. This parent education and support program for parents of children from birth to age five is available in approximately 80 programs across the state. Through PAT, certified parent educators offer home visits, peer group meetings, developmental screening and resource/referral assistance to families and caregivers. *860-571-7504*
- Technical Assistance to communities and families seeking to increase parent involvement in education
- Website with information and calendar of events and activities for parents statewide

*860-571-6052*

### Voices for Children

This organization seeks to promote the well-being of all of CT's young people through high quality research and public analysis, an active communication programs, a commitment to promoting youth leadership and youth voice and effective citizen mobilization and organizational collaboration. Their agenda includes:

- reducing child poverty
- assuring all CT students have the needed academic and technology skills
- encouraging up-front investments to reduce health and safety risks facing children while meeting the multiple needs of vulnerable youngsters
- building a chorus of informed citizen voices; including nurturing the next generation of citizen advocates.

Activities include:

**Connecticut Kids Link,** a website for the CT Voices for Children includes information on legislative issues, calendar of events
**CT's Promise: First for Kids:** a 2 year campaign designed to concentrate the state's creative and financial resources on improving the well-being of all CT's children. The campaign includes information development, public education and citizen mobilization. Events include "First Mondays" which is a series of forums at the State Capital to provide information about trends and conditions which affect CT's children.*203-498-4240*

**Wheeler Clinic**
In addition to its direct service programs, this multi-service non-profit organization is involved in the early childhood community in a variety of ways:

- CT Literacy Initiative (CLI): This initiative, funded by the Departments of Education and Social Services and the CT Commission on National and Community Service, puts America Reads Americorps members in day care centers in 5 communities: Windham, East Hartford, Bristol, New Britain, Norwalk. Their efforts focus on developing preliteracy skills of underserved children, ages four to five, and building community capacity to support child literacy.
- Administrative coordinator for the Early Childhood Training and Resource Academy regarding the Training Program in Child Development. *For more information see **Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut.***
- Connecticut Clearinghouse: funded by the State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, this is a statewide resource for information about alcohol, tobacco and other drug and related health and wellness issues. 1-800-232-4424
- CT Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse

*1-800-722-7302*

**Yale Family Connections**
This program of Children with Special Health Care Needs offers families support, information and resources. Linking families to existing community resources, offering parent training activities and advocacy assistance related to health care and education are some of the services they provide.
*203-737-5462*

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## Websites

Many of the organizations listed in this directory maintain websites. Listed below are several Connecticut websites which provide information related to families and young children and contain links to numerous resources across the state.

| |
|---|
| **Commission on Children**<br>www.cga.state.ct.us/coc |
| **ConneCT**<br>www.state.ct.us<br>This is the official website of the State of the Connecticut. Through this you can link to all state agencies, the executive, judicial and legislative branches, and connect to the cities and towns. |
| **Infoline**<br>www.infoline.org |
| **Kids Link**<br>www.ctkidslink.org<br>This is the website of the CT Voices for Children |

# Connecticut State Department of Education

## Division of Educational Programs and Services
## Bureau of Early Childhood Education and Social Services

25 Industrial Park Road
Middletown, CT 06457
Telephone: (860) 807-2005; Fax: (860) 807-2062
www.state.ct.us/sde/deps/early/index.htm

**George A. Coleman**, Associate Commissioner
**Paul F. Flinter**, Bureau Chief

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Camille Jackson Alleyne** | Preschool Programs<br>Head Start Programs<br>Child Care Staff Approval | (860) 807-2053 |
| **Shirle Moone Childs** | Family Resource Centers<br>Young Parents Program<br>Child Care Staff Approval | (860) 807-2059 |
| **Janet Foster** | Early Childhood Data Project | (860) 807-2056 |
| **Joyce Staples** | School Readiness Programs<br>Early Childhood Programs | (860) 807-2057 |
| **Maria Synodi** | Preschool Special Education Programs | (860) 807-2054 |

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